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DOCUMENTS RELATING TO  
THE CAREER OF COL. ISAAC FRANKS.

BY

PROF. MORRIS JASTROW, JR.

University of Pennsylvania, Phila.

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*To Prof. Jastrow  
with the  
compliments of  
H. S. Jastrow*

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PORTRAIT OF ISAAC FRANKS, PAINTED BY GILBERT STUART IN 1802.  
GIBSON COLLECTION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF  
FINE ARTS, PHILADELPHIA. REPRODUCED BY  
PERMISSION OF THE ACADEMY.

## DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CAREER OF COLONEL ISAAC FRANKS.

BY PROFESSOR MORRIS JASTROW, JR., *University of Pennsylvania,*  
*Philadelphia.*

Some time ago, the Council of this Society learned through its president, the Hon. Oscar S. Straus, of the existence of papers relating to the career of Isaac Franks. These papers were at the time in the possession of George W. Huffnagle, of New Hope, Bucks Co., Pa., a grandson of Isaac Franks.\* By resolution of the Council, the writer was deputed to communicate with Mr. Huffnagle, with a view of examining and, if possible, of obtaining copies of these papers for the purpose of issuing them in the *Publications* of our Society.

Mr. Huffnagle, in response to a letter, forwarded copies of some of the papers in his possession, and declared his willingness to lay the remainder before me at some future time. Illness prevented Mr. Huffnagle from making an appointment for a visit which I was anxious to pay him, and last winter Mr. Huffnagle died. His son, the Rev. John C. Huffnagle, residing in Imlaystown, N. J., most generously offered to place at our disposal all documents in his possession that might be of any use, and as the result of a visit paid to Mr. Huffnagle, I am privileged to lay before you a number of documents—in all 33—which enable us to follow, in somewhat greater detail than was heretofore possible, the career of one who served the cause of American independence most honorably and for this reason deserves to be remembered. The thanks of our Society are eminently due to the Rev. Mr. Huffnagle, for his kindness in permitting me to take

\* The daughter of Colonel Isaac Franks, Miss Sarah Eliza Franks, was married to John Huffnagle, of Lancaster, on Sept. 9, 1806.

Gift  
American Historical Review

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whatever papers I desired with me and to have copies of them made.

The documents may be divided into seven classes :

(1) Illustrating the Revolutionary career of Colonel Franks.

(2) Referring to a claim made by him against the United States in 1812, for an error in his favor, in his accounts as Forage Master of the garrison of West Point,—a position held by him from the 1st of January, 1778, to the 5th of September, 1781.

(3) Applications for appointment to office under the United States Government, 1812–1813.

(4) Commissions from Thomas Mifflin, Governor of Pennsylvania, (*a*) as a Notary and Tabellion Public, 1789 ; (*b*) as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Second Regiment of Philadelphia, 1794 ; (*c*) as Justice of the Peace in the county of Philadelphia, 1795.

(5) Papers relating to the renting of Colonel Franks' house in Germantown to President Washington, 1793.

(6) Applications for a pension from the United States Government, 1818–1819, and certificate of pension.

(7) Miscellaneous documents, bearing on his relations to his children, biographical notices and the like.

The documents in the first six classes formed part of Colonel Franks' own papers ; those in the seventh class emanate only in part from him, a number having been collected by his grandson, George W. Huffnagle. Among the latter is a biographical notice, copied from an unknown source, which gives an epitome of his career :

“ Isaac Franks, son of Moses and Sarah Franks, was born at the city of New York on the 27th of May, 1759. He embarked in the Revolutionary contest of 1776 between the colonies and the kingdom of Great Britain, and served under Washington with the reputation of a gallant, brave and useful officer during the whole of the American Revolution, during which he received several wounds. After the



peace of 1783 he filled various civil commissions, and was the intimate friend and companion of Washington, who, with his family, spent the summers of 1793 and 1794 with Colonel Franks\* at his residence . . . in Germantown. Colonel Franks died on the 4th of March, 1822, of a pulmonary complaint, being at the time Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Philadelphia." [sic.]

In connection with an application for a government pension, made in 1818 (Appendix No. 9), which was rendered necessary by his straitened circumstances, Colonel Franks drew up a statement of his services during the war of Independence. A draft of this statement and several copies of the statement itself, formally drawn up and certified to, are among the documents that have come into our possession. From this statement we learn that he entered upon his military career in May or June, 1776, at the early age, therefore, of seventeen. He joined Colonel Lesher's regiment as a volunteer in the city of New York, from which we may conclude that the city of his birth continued to be his residence and that of his parents, until this period. He took part in the battle of Long Island, being, as he says, "in the heat of the battle," and under the immediate command of General Washington. He equipped himself at his own expense, and tells us "that in July of that year, in parade order, attended the first communication of the Declaration of Independence, which was read to the troops, when we all, as with one voice, declared that we would support and defend the same with our lives and our fortunes."

In the year 1777, he joined the Quartermaster's Department in the Continental village, a few miles above Peekskill in the State of New York, as an Assistant Forage Master. In 1778 he became Forage Master, and was stationed at West Point till 1781, when he entered as an Ensign into the service of the 7th Massachusetts Regiment,

\* Inaccurate. See below. Washington rented the house from Franks in the winter of 1793-94.

then stationed in the garrison of West Point. His certificate of appointment is preserved (Appendix No. 1). It is dated Boston, February 22, 1781, "in the fifth year of the independence of the United States of America," and is signed by John Hancock and by the latter's secretary, John Avery. The formal commission itself was not received till March 12, 1782, but his appointment and rank began on January 1, 1781, and continued till June, 1782, when on account of ill health he was forced to resign. He took this step with the approbation of the Commander-in-chief.

From another statement, signed by Isaac Franks, we obtain some details of his career in Colonel Leshner's regiment. The regiment was annexed to the army of the United States under the command of General Washington. After the battle of Long Island, Franks retreated with the army to New York, and was on the detached guard at the Fly Market on the East river, at the time that the English took possession of the city, September 15, 1776. Franks was taken prisoner, but after nearly three months of confinement succeeded in making his escape. "In a small, leaky skiff," he tells us, "with one single paddle," he crossed to the Jersey shore.

After receiving his "furlough," as he calls it, in June, 1782, from Major-General Alexander McDougal, the commander of West Point and its dependencies, he visited his friends, and was in the city of Philadelphia when the news of peace arrived.\*

On the 9th of July, 1782, he was married in Philadelphia to Mary, the daughter of Captain Samuel Davison. Four children were born to the couple. Two died at an early age. One, a son, Samuel D. Franks, became Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas for the counties of

\*A memorandum on the back of a copy of Colonel Franks' commission as Ensign, and also on a draft of one of his statements, reads, "The Preliminaries of Peace were signed at Parris [*sic*] on the 30th of November, 1782, and the ratification of the Definitive Treaty were [*sic*] exchanged in May, 1784."

Schuylkill, Lebanon and Dauphin, and his daughter, Sara Eliza, married Peter Huffnagle of Philadelphia.

After his marriage, Mr. Franks took up his permanent residence in Germantown, where he purchased a dwelling house (now No. 5442 Main street) which is still standing (Appendix No. 14). For a number of years we lose sight of him. In the beginning of 1789 he was appointed by Governor Mifflin of Pennsylvania "a Notary and Tabellion Public" for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Appendix No. 3). It was presumably from the fees attaching to this office, that he derived an income which supported him and his family. At all events for about twenty-five years after the close of his military career, he appears to have been in a prosperous condition. In 1784 we find him associated with Benjamin Rush in the purchase of "19 tracts" of land in Westmoreland Co. (now Indiana), and he continued to hold these lands as late as 1804.

In 1794 he was honored by Governor Mifflin with an appointment as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Second Regiment of Philadelphia County Brigade of the Militia of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is through this appointment that he became generally known as Colonel Franks (Appendix No. 4).

In 1795 he received another appointment at the hands of the same Governor Mifflin, this time to the office of "Justice of the Peace in the District consisting of the Townships of Germantown and Roxborough in the county of Philadelphia" (Appendix No. 5). But previous to this, he must have engaged in some undertaking that led him to Bethlehem, for in the winter of 1793 we find him setting out from that place for a short visit to his Germantown residence. The occasion of the visit was a note received from President Washington, who desired to rent the house during the prevalence of yellow fever in Philadelphia when, as is well known, the seat of the United States Government was removed to Germantown. On November 6, Mr. Franks

sets out with his wife from Bethlehem, in order to put his house in order. The negotiations are completed and, in December of the same year, Franks pays another visit to Germantown, in order to ascertain how long the President intends to occupy the house. Among our documents are two copies of the bill Mr. Franks presented to Washington for two months' rental and sundry expenses (Appendix No. 13). The owner is careful not to omit any item, and some of the charges are exceedingly curious. Whatever may have led Franks to Bethlehem—perhaps the prevalence of the plague in Philadelphia—he returned to Germantown and appears to have stayed there until early in this century. Then for some reasons unknown to us, he removed to Ephrata, Lancaster County.

In October, 1802, we still find him at Germantown. At that period Gilbert Stuart finished an oil painting of Mr. Franks, which was presented to the latter by the artist.\* There are bills paid to Mr. J. Rowan of Philadelphia for tuition for Mr. Franks' daughter, dated December 15, 1802, and March 15, 1803. Between the latter date and 1806 the removal to Ephrata takes place. He evidently regards Ephrata as his permanent residence, for in a letter, dated May 8, 1806, addressed to his daughter, who was attending a school kept by Mr. and Mrs. Rowan in Philadelphia, he speaks of the time when his daughter will come to reside with him. In the fall of that year, his daughter was married at Lancaster. We find Franks at Ephrata as late as 1812. Things have

\* The painting is referred to by Franks in a memorandum prepared by him for his children. It was left conjointly to Samuel and Sara, each one by turns to have the right of possessing it for one year. The picture was sold by G. W. Huffnagle to the late Henry C. Gibson of Philadelphia. By the will of the latter, it has come into the possession of the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. On the back there was pasted a slip reading, "Portrait of Mr. Isaac Franks. Presented to friend Isaac Franks as a token of regard by Gilbert Stuart. Germantown, Oct. 1st, 1802." This slip has been framed by the Academy and attached to the portrait.

not gone well with him. He appears to be in straitened circumstances and takes various steps to secure an income. In December, 1811, he puts in a claim against the United States for an "erroneous credit" which he inadvertently gave the United States while serving as Forage Master at West Point. His claim is for \$463.12, which with interest up to the date of his claim brings the sum up to almost \$1,400. He bases his claim upon the fact that he gave receipts for his pay as Forage Master during his term of service (13 months and 2 days) without first liquidating the same by the scale of depreciation, established by Congress on January 2, 1780, and by which all the payments to the army from September 1, 1777, to March 18, 1780, were liquidated and settled (see Appendix No. 6).

He makes strenuous efforts to secure this claim. First, he applies to the Treasurer of the State of Massachusetts, Jonathan L. Austin, who tells him that if his commission as Ensign in the Seventh Regiment was dated after December, 1780, his pay must come from the United States. On December 11, 1811, he sends a formal statement of his claim to Jonathan Burrell, Commissioner for the Quartermaster's Department at New York. In January, 1813, on the occasion of a visit to Philadelphia, he writes to Charles Jared Ingersoll, representative in Congress, in support of his claim (Appendix No. 7), and refers to the fact that "a memorial and vouchers" in his behalf "had been put into the hands of Mr. Hyneman, then a representative in Congress." Owing to Mr. Hyneman's resignation of his seat, the papers were not presented, but placed in the hands of Jonathan Roberts, a representative in Congress from Pennsylvania. On March 4, 1812, he writes to the U. S. Comptroller, Richard Rush, at Washington (Appendix No. 8), who in reply (March 30) sends a copy of Isaac Franks' account to show that the "erroneous item was included and properly settled in that account." Richard Rush in a supplementary note expresses his regard for Mr. Franks and regrets that he



cannot serve him. About this time, feeling that the hopes of securing his claim are slight (although he sends a reply to Rush's note), Franks makes application for some appointment in the Quartermaster's Department. He writes to Colonel Clement Biddle, of Philadelphia, under date of March 17, 1812, asking for a certificate. The request is granted, but Franks is not successful in his endeavors. A year later—May 10, 1813—he applies to Richard Rush for a position in the Comptroller's Office. In his application he refers to his "sincere friend, the celebrated Dr. Rush," and offers his condolence to the son upon the death of his father. In a postscript, he also takes the opportunity of inquiring whether anything has occurred favorable to his "equitable claim against the Treasury." In this quest, too, he is unsuccessful, and when next we hear of him, in 1818, he has moved back to Philadelphia and is making an effort, by "reason of his reduced circumstances," to secure a pension from the United States government. His papers are drawn up and certified to on April 8, 1818, by Joseph B. McKean, Judge of the District Court for the city of Philadelphia (Appendix Nos. 9 and 10). Mr. Jonathan Roberts, at the time a member of the Senate for Pennsylvania, is appealed to on December 15th of the same year to take (Appendix Nos. 11 and 12) the claim for a pension "under his patronage." The interval of eight months between the drawing up of the papers and their being placed in the hands of Mr. Roberts is due to the fact that Congress adjourned in April and Mr. Franks did not wish to trouble Mr. Roberts "late in the session." Mr. Roberts takes the matter up. A note from the Pension Office dated June 22, 1819, and addressed to Mr. Roberts, states that the application will be granted "when proof of his (Mr. Franks') being in reduced circumstances shall be attached to his declaration."

On the 14th of December, 1819, the pension certificate was forwarded to Mr. Franks (Appendix No. 2). The pension was fixed at \$20 per month, to commence from

the date that his papers were drawn up, April 8, 1818. Isaac Franks enjoyed his pension for only four years. In 1819 (Feb. 18)\* he was appointed Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and it is a comfort to know that his closing years were thus rendered free from care. He died on Monday, March 4, 1822, at the age of sixty-three, and was buried from his residence, No. 55 Cherry street, on March 6.†

#### APPENDIX.

A selection from the documents illustrating the career of Isaac Franks is herewith published.‡ The publication includes fourteen documents as follows:

I. Five certificates: (1) as Ensign in the Seventh Regiment of Massachusetts; (2) pension certificate; (3) as notary and tabellion public; (4) as lieutenant-colonel; (5) as justice of the peace.

II. Franks' claim against the United States: (6) memorandum and copy of account; (7) letter to Charles Jared Ingersoll.

III. Application for office: (8) letter to Richard Rush.

IV. Application for pension: (9) statement of military career; (10) statement made before Joseph B. McKean; (11) letter to Hon. Jonathan Roberts, December 15, 1818; (12) letter to the same, February 22, 1819.

V. Germantown residence: (13) copy of bill presented to President Washington; (14) statement regarding the history of the property.

The remainder of the documents have been copied and deposited in the office of the Secretary of the American Jewish Historical Society at Washington.

\* Martin, *Bench and Bar of Philadelphia*, p. 26.

† See Poulson's *Daily American Advertiser*, for March 5, 1822. Martin gives the date of Franks' death erroneously as March 3.

‡ The spelling of the originals is retained, only obvious slips being corrected.

## I.

## (1)

CERTIFICATE OF COLONEL ISAAC FRANKS' COMMISSION AS  
 ENSIGN IN THE 7TH REGIMENT OF THE COMMON-  
 WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1781.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

To Isaac Franks—Gentleman Greeting,—Reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your ability Courage and good Conduct, I Do by these presents Constitute and appoint you the said Isaac Franks to be an Ensign in the seventh Regiment of Foot—one of the Battalions raised by this Commonwealth to serve in the Continental Army, where John Brooks Esqr. is Lieutenant Colonel Commandant,—You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of an Ensign in said Regiment in all things appertaining thereto, observing such Orders and Instructions as you shall receive from the Commandant of said Regiment or any other Your Superior Officers, for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant till you shall receive a Commission in manner and form pointed out by the Resolves of Congress of March 8th and June 28th, 1779.—Dated at Boston this twenty-second of February one thousand seven hundred and eighty one, in the fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

By His Excellency's command,

JOHN HANCOCK.

JOHN AVERY, *Secy.*

## (2)

## PENSION CERTIFICATE.

## WAR DEPARTMENT.

## Revolutionary Claim.

I certify that in conformity with the Law of the United States, of the 18th March 1818, Isaac Franks, Late an



Ensign in the Army of the Revolution, is inscribed on the Pension List Roll of the Pennsylvania Agency, at the rate of twenty dollars per month, to commence on the Eighth day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

Given at the War office of the United States, this fourteenth day of December one thousand eight hundred and nineteen.

C. VANDERVENTER, *Acting Secretary of War.*

On the back of this certificate:

[Seal of the United States War Office.]	Payable semi-annually. The first payment on this Certificate will be made on the 4th of March next, in Philadelphia, at the Bank of the United States.
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(3)

COMMISSION AS NOTARY AND TABELLION PUBLIC.

[Seal of the State of Pennsylvania.]	THOMAS MIFFLIN. In the Name and by the Authority of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
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The Supreme Executive Council, of the said Commonwealth.

*To Isaac Franks, Esquire, of the City of Philadelphia—*

[Coat of Arms of Pennsylvania.]	We, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Prudence, Integrity and Abilities, have appointed you the said Isaac Franks a Notary and Tabellion public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. You are therefore by these presents commissioned to be a Notary and Tabellion Public in and for the said Commonwealth—to have and hold the said office of Notary and Tabellion Public—With all the Rights, powers, and emoluments to said office belonging, or by Law in any Wise appertaining, until this Commission shall be legally revoked.
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Given in Council, under the Hand of His Excellency Thomas Mifflin, Esquire—President, and the Seal of the State at Philadelphia, this seventh Day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

Attest: CHA<sup>S</sup>. BIDDLE, *Sec<sup>y</sup>*.

[Enrollment      Inrolled in the Rolls office of the State  
Office of      of Pennsylvania In Commission Book No. 1,  
Pennsylvania      page 224, &c. Witness my hand and Seal of  
Seal.]      office the 10th February, 1789.

MATH<sup>W</sup>. IRWIN, *M. R.*

(4)

COMMISSION AS LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

Pennsylvania.

In the Name, and by the Authority of the Commonwealth  
of Pennsylvania,

Thomas Mifflin,

Governor of the said Commonwealth,

To Isaac Franks of the County of Philadelphia Greeting :

Know That you, the said Isaac Franks  
[Coat of Arms      (being duly elected and returned) are hereby  
of      Commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the  
Pennsylvania.]      Second Regiment of Philadelphia County  
Tho. Mifflin.      Brigade of the Militia of the Common-  
wealth of Pennsylvania. To have and to  
hold this Commission exercising all the powers, and discharg-  
ing all the duties thereto lawfully belonging and attached,  
for the term of seven years.

In Testimony whereof, I have set my Hand and caused the great Seal of the said State to be affixed to these Presents, at Philadelphia the Fifteenth Day of July in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-four and of the Commonwealth the Nineteenth.

By the Governor.

A. I. DALLAS, *Sec.*

(5)

COMMISSION AS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

Pennsylvania.

In the Name, and by the Authority of the Commonwealth of  
Pennsylvania,

Thomas Mifflin,

Governor of the said Commonwealth.

To Isaac Franks of the County of Philadelphia Esq.  
Sends Greeting :

[Coat of Arms      Know You, That reposing especial  
                         of      Trust and Confidence in your Integrity,  
Pennsylvania.]      Judgment, and Abilities, I the said Thomas  
                         Tho. Mifflin.      Mifflin, have appointed and by these  
                         Presents, do appoint and commission you,  
the said Isaac Franks to be a Justice of the Peace, in the  
District consisting of the Townships of Germantown and  
Roxborough in the county of Philadelphia Hereby giving  
and granting unto you, full Right and Title, to have and exe-  
cute all and singular the Powers, Jurisdictions and Author-  
ities, and to receive and enjoy, all and singular, the lawful  
Emoluments of a Justice of the Peace aforesaid, agreeably  
to the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth. To  
have and to hold this Commission, and the Office hereby  
granted unto you the said Isaac Franks, so long as you shall  
behave yourself well.

Given under my Hand, and the Seal of the State, at Phil-  
adelphia this twenty-fifth Day of September in the year of our  
Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-five and of  
the Commonwealth the twentieth.

By the Governor.

JAMES TRIMBLE, *Deputy Sec.*

## II.

(6)

MEMORANDUM OF CLAIM AGAINST THE UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT.Ephrata, Lancaster County, Dec<sup>r</sup>. 12, 1811.

In looking over my old Military papers this day, I have discovered an Erroneous credit which I have inadvertently given to the United States in my exhibited account, against myself, of which the enclosed is a copy.

Viz. "To the first item on the Credit side of my account I  
"have inadvertently given to the U. S. credit for 520  
"dollars  $\frac{60}{90}$  Continental Money (as specie) which I  
"received of Col. Bostwick for Pay as Forage Master  
"from the 1 Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1778 to the 2 feb<sup>y</sup>. 1779. 13 months &  
"2 days at \$40 p<sup>r</sup> mo. Without first Liquidateing the  
"same by the scale of Depreciation, established by  
"Congress on the 2<sup>d</sup> June 1780, and by which *all* the  
"payments to the Army from the 1<sup>st</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1777 to  
"the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1780 were Liquidated and Settled.

My Pay for said item of Service to which said erroneous Credit is annexed, viz. from the 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan <sup>y</sup> 1778 to the 2 <sup>d</sup> feb <sup>y</sup> 1779, 13 months and 2 days at \$40 p <sup>r</sup> month is.....	\$522..67
The said 520 dollars $\frac{60}{90}$ Continental Money By the scale of Depreciation on the 2 feb <sup>y</sup> 1779 at $11\frac{41}{90}$ % for 100 dollars is ... ..	59..55
Balance due I. F. ....	\$463..12
with Interest from 1779*	

\* Amount due is fixed at \$469.16 (*sic*!). In another copy, interest is calculated till January, 1812, at \$924, making a total sum of \$1393.16.

[Copy.]

The United States in Account with Isaac Franks.

D<sup>r</sup>.

To my services as Forage Master of the Garrison of West Point from the first January 1778 to the fifth September 1781, both days included is 44 Months and 5 days at 40<sup>Drs</sup> p<sup>er</sup> month..... 1766-60

C<sup>r</sup>.

1779. By Pay from Col <sup>n</sup> Andrew Bostwicke from the first Jany. 1778 to the 2 <sup>d</sup> feby 1779 13 months & 2 days.....	dollars.	520-60
Sep <sup>r</sup> 12, 1779. By Cash on acct. from Col <sup>o</sup> Clement Biddle C. G. Forage = 1000 dollars Continental Money Equal to $53\frac{2}{100}$ .....		53..22
By Merchandize from Daniel Carthy A. D. Q. M. G. am <sup>tg</sup> to £4..2. N. York Money.....		10..22
Ball <sup>e</sup> due by the U. S. to Is. Franks.....		1182..56
		<hr/> 1766..60 <hr/>

Errors Excepted.

Philad<sup>a</sup>, Jany 18, 1788.

ISAAC FRANKS.

(7)

LETTER TO CHARLES JARED INGERSOLL.

Philadelphia, Jan 24th, 1813.

The Honorable Charles Jared Ingersoll Esq.

Sir.

At the time I did myself the honor to state to you my claim on the U. S. I was not informed that a Memorial & Vouchers in my behalf had been put into the hands of Mr. Hyneman, then a Representative in Congress, who, in consequence of his intention to resign his seat did not present them, & on his departure put the same into the hands of Jonathan Roberts, Esq., a Representative in Congress.

As I have not heard that Mr. Roberts has acted on the same, I take the liberty, Sir, in consequence of your polite offer to present my Memorial, to address myself to you, to entreat your patronage, and solicit the favor of you to confer with Mr. Roberts on the subject of my Memorial, so that it be presented.

The object Sir, of my Memorial is, to rectify an error, made in the settlement of my Acct. by the Commissioner & overlooked by myself.

The Error is, that I gave credit for 520 dollars  $\frac{6}{90}$ <sup>th</sup> received as for my pay from the first of January 1778 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Feb. 1779, whereas that sum being paid me in Continental paper Money, should have been reduced by the Scale of Depreciation, to its specie value, which was but \$59.55 making an error in my favor of \$463.12.

It appears by the settlement made out by Mr. Burrell, the Commissioner, that he slipped over the Item to which the erroneous credit is annexed, and the credit with it; and in place of commencing his settlement of my account from the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1778, the day on which my services as F. M. commenced at West Point, he, together with the Commissioner's settlement, dates his partial settlement only from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feby. 79, by which artifice the \$520 $\frac{6}{90}$  was suffered to stand without being reduced by the Scale of Depreciation, as in full for my pay from the 1<sup>st</sup> Jany. '78 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feby. '79, in the manner I inadvertently gave credit for it. But it is evident, although it was nominally so, yet that I was entitled to depreciation having been in service after the 10 April 1780, even in the Department where the Account originated, having continued in that Dept. to Sept. 1781, and afterwards went into the line of the army by Commission, and continued in the service of my country to the end of the war. My impression is, that in Equity, I am entitled to the full benefit of my services and ought to receive the amount of \$463 $\frac{12}{100}$  with interest from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Feby. 1779, and that the Acts of limitation cannot affect a claim of this kind.



I submit the subject to your good judgment, and rely upon that equal Justice which the Representatives of the nation may have in their Power to dispense.

I am, Sir,

with due respect

Your very obedient servant

I. F.

P. S. Sir.

The Erroneous credit to which I alude is annexed to the first item on the credit side of my Exhibited Account signed by me and affixed by the Court Genl. & presented the 10<sup>th</sup> Jany. 1788, to Jonathan Burrell, then Commissioner for the settlement of the accounts of the Quarter Master's Department, & on file in the Office of the Auditor General of the U. S. together with the partial settlement made by the Commr dated the 30<sup>th</sup> Jany 1788, to which I beg leave to refer & I trust will establish my claim.

III.

(8)

APPLICATION FOR OFFICE. LETTER TO RICHARD RUSH.

[Copy.]

Ephrata near Lancaster May 10<sup>th</sup> 1813

Richard Rush Esquire

Sir. The great loss of my sincere friend, The Celebrated Dr. Rush, the patron of Beneficence, distresses me much. I trust, Sir, that I may deserve from you that friendship that I always experienced from your good father for the last Thirty three years.

Grieve not at the inevitable moment that separated Him from us. He is happy. May your own end be equally Propitious, and may you when full of years and full of honor, sink down as gently to rest—beloved as sincerely as your happy Father.

The last time I was in Philadelphia in company with your Father, at his house, I suggested the Idea, that I should like to obtain some employment [*sic*] in one of the Public Departments of the U. S. My intimation met his approbation, and He set down at his writeing table, and gave to me unsolicited, a general recommendation. Here said He, receive this with my best wishes for your success—I have never made any application to any Gentleman but yourself, nor never shown or made any use of the valuable recommendation before this opportunity. I now take the liberty to enclose a Copy, and earnestly solicit an appointment in your Department, or your kind Patronage to obtain some situation for me. I am encouraged Sir, to make my application to you, because you are the son of my dear deceased Friend, and to whom can a revolutionary officer (I entered the service of my country at the age of sixteen in the year 1776, and continued in the service of my country to the end of the war) apply with more propriety than to you Sir, the son of that great Patriot who bore so distinguished a part in the Congress of 1776 and through all the dangers of the American revolution.

Should you favor me with your attention, you will make me happy, and confer a lasting obligation upon, Sir,

Your most obedient

Servant

ISAAC FRANKS.

P. S. Allow me, Sir, to avail myself of this opportunity to inquire, If any circumstance has occured to you, favorable to my equitable claim on the Treasury, to have the erroneous item of credit which I inadvertently gave to the U. S. against myself in my exhibited account rectified, so that I may thereby receive the ballance of that item so justly due to me for my pay for those toilsome services as Forage Master, (for which I only received in value according to the scale of Depreciation about \$59 $\frac{51}{100}$ ) for 13 months and 2 days services, from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1778 to the 2 february 1779) and



which erroneous Items of Credit the Commissioner (Burrall) skipped entirely over and did not correct nor include the same in the statement which He or his Clerks made out for a settlement of my account. The erroneous item I allude to is the first item on the credit side of my own exhibited account which I sent to the Commissioner for a settlement. With due respect,

Your very obedient

Servant

I. FRANKS.

Please to direct to me at Lancaster.

Copy of Doc<sup>r</sup> Rush<sup>s</sup> Recommendation.

I have known Mr. Isaac Franks since the close of the revolutionary war in which he bore an active part as the Commander of a company.

His pursuits since that time qualify him in an eminent degree for an Accomptant, and to do all the duties of a Public office in which a knowledge of figures, bookkeeping, industry, punctuallity and executive business of that kind are required.

(Signed)

BENJ<sup>N</sup> RUSH.

#### IV.

(9)

#### STATEMENT OF MILITARY CAREER.

A Narrative of the Revolutionary Services of Colonel Isaac Franks—who was Born in the City of New York on the 27th day of May, 1759.

In the month of May or June 1776, the Subscriber Joined Col. Leshers<sup>s</sup> Regiment (a six months Reg<sup>t</sup>) in the City of New York, as a Volunteer—The Regiment was annexed to the Army of the United States under the Command of General George Washington, and the Subscriber was with the said Regiment in the Battle of Long Island and in the retreat with the army from Long Island to New

York City, and continued to do Duty with said Regiment after they arrived in New York and was on a detached guard from said Regiment at the Fly Market on the East River when the Enemy entered and took possession of said city on the 15 Day of Sep<sup>r</sup> 1776 and was taken Prisoner and suffered near three months confinement, when on an evening He made his escape, and in the night crossed the North River from the Bear Market at the foot of Division street in a small leaky skiff with one single paddle to the Jersey shore,—In the year 1777, He joined the Quarter Masters Department, at the Continental Village a few miles above Peekskill in the State of New York, as an assistant to the Forage Master Capt. Campbell. The Department was under the Direction of Col. Hugh Hughes D. Q. M. G<sup>l</sup>, and in January 1778, the Subscriber was appointed Forage Master of the Garrison of West Point, and its Dependences—In which station He continued to serve and act, until He was appointed a Commission officer in the line of the Continental Army which was some time in the year 1780, or on the first January 1781 when He Joined Captain Mills company in the 7th Massachusetts Regiment as an Ensign—The Regiment was then Stationed at West Point—And in October or November 1781—He was detached on Command to join Captain Gooddale at Fort Verplanks Point, Situated on the North river opposite to Stoney Point, where He continued on Duty until february 1782, when He was relieved and again joined his Regiment at West Point—

Some time after He received from Major General Alexander McDougal the Commander of West Point and its dependences, a Furlough (being the first furlough the Subscriber ever applied for during all his revolutionary campaign)— He then visited his friends, and was in the City of Philadelphia when the news of peace arrived— He solemnly declares, that through the whole of his long and arduous Revolutionary services, He always acted with Honor and Strict fidelity— The Subscriber is a Native

Born Citizen and never was absent from the United States, He never received a Pension— That now by reason of his reduced circumstances, He needs the assistance of his Country.

ISAAC FRANKS— Philadelphia, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1818.

*For further Evidence, If required—*

Refer. 1<sup>st</sup> The Congress & War office Register of Commissions

2<sup>d</sup> The pay Masters Rolls of the 7<sup>th</sup> U. S. Massachusetts Regiment, commanded by Col. John Brooks, Gen<sup>l</sup> Patterson's Brigade ; Stationed at West Point—

3<sup>d</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington's Register of Resignations—

(10)

STATEMENT MADE BEFORE JOSEPH B. MCKEAN.

[Copy.]

City & County of Philadelphia.

On this Eight day of April in the year One thousand Eight hundred and Eighteen before me Joseph B. McKean, Judge of the District Court for the City & County of Philadelphia in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, personally appeared Isaac Franks of the same City, who being duly sworn, deposes & says, that he served in the War of the Revolution, against the Common Enemy as an Ensign in the Army on the Continental establishment, above twelve months, without any intermission.

That he entered the service in the month of May or June 1776 and joined Col. Leshers Regiment in the City of New York (his native City) as a Volunteer. That he was in the Battle of Long Island. And in the year 1777 He joined the Quarter Master's Department in the Continental Village, a few miles above Peekskill in the State of N. Y. as an assistant Forage Master to Capt. Campbell. The Department was under the direction of Col. Hugh Hughes D. Q. M. Genl.

In January 1778, the Deponent was appointed Forage Master and in the Spring of the same year (1778) was stationed at West Point as Forage Master of the Garrison of West Point & its Dependancies and so continued for several years, until the Month of January in the Year 1781, when as an Ensign he joined the Seventh Massachusetts Regt., then stationed in the Garrison of West Point, in the Army of the United States and afterwards received his commission as an Ensign in said Regiment dated the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1782 to take rank as such from the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 1781 and continued in the service till about the month of June 1782, when the deponent resigned with the approbation of the Commander in chief, through the interference of Dr. Samuel Findly the Surgeon of said Regt. Being severely afflicted with the gravel, which still, occasionally, greatly distresses him That by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, he is in need of Assistance from his country for support, and that he never has rec'd or been allowed any pension by the laws of the U. S. That he is a native born, and yet a resident Citizen of the U. S. & now resident in the City of Phil<sup>a</sup> in the Commonwealth of Penn<sup>a</sup>.

I. F.

Sworn & Subscribed  
Before  
J. B. McK.

[Copy.]

I Joseph B. McKean etc., as aforesaid, do Certify that it appears to my satisfaction that the said Isaac Franks did serve in the Revolutionary War, as stated in the preceeding declaration, against the Common Enemy; and now transmit the preceeding declaration and testimony had and taken before me, to the Secretary of the department of war, pursuant to the directions of the aforementioned Act of Congress.

(Signed)

JOS. B. MCKEAN.

The evidence in addition to the Claimant's Affidavit etc. transmitted is :

1. His Commission as Ensign in the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment in the army of the United States dated 12 March 1782 to take rank as such from 1 Jan. 1781.

2. Certificate of Clement Biddle Com. General of Forage dated the 19 March 1812.

(Signed)

J. B. McKEAN.

[Seal of the  
District Court  
of the City & County  
of Philadelphia.]

(11)

LETTER TO JONATHAN ROBERTS.

[Copy.]

Philadelphia Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 1818

The Honorab<sup>le</sup>

Jonathan Roberts Esquire

Member of the Senate of the U. S.

Sir.

I intended to have addressed myself to you, on the subject of a Pension from the U. S. last spring, but my papers were only prepared by my friend Judge Joseph McKean, when Congress was about to adjourn, then I thought it was too late in the session to trouble you.

I now beg leave to address you on the subject and to enclose my Declaration and Vouchers, for your examinations, and respectfully solicit the favor of you to take my claim for a pension under your Patronage & and be pleased to have the goodness to present my claim to the Secretary of War.

My application for a Pension was made to Judge McKean (as he has certified) on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April last agreeable to law, and He is of opinion that the pension will commence from that date.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to tender to you my sincere thanks for your kind endeavors in my behalf in the year 1814, when my claim on the U. S. was pending before Congress, for arrearage of Pay for my Revolutionary services, which is yet unsettled and a balance due to me from the U. S. of upwards of sixteen hundred Dollars, which is said to be barred, unfortunately for me by an act of Limitations.

I am sir,

with great Respect & Esteem  
your obedient servant

ISAAC FRANKS.

P. S. I am Sir a native born Citizen and a uniform Republican. When Sir, it may be convenient to you to favor me with a reply, Be pleased to direct.

Col. Isaac Franks,  
Philadelphia.

(12)

A SECOND LETTER TO JONATHAN ROBERTS.

Philadelphia February 22<sup>d</sup> 1819.

The Honorable

Jonathan Roberts, esquire

Sir—

Your esteemed favor of the 19<sup>th</sup> of December last, came duly to my hands, adviseing me of your having received the proofs of my revolutionary services, and that you had presented them to the Secretary of War, and you were pleased to observe, that when they were decided upon, you would advise me. Accept sir, my grateful thanks for your benevolent attention.

Not having received any advice from the War office, and being anxious to enjoy that provision which the Laws of my Country have provided for me, I take the liberty, Sir, to address you again, in order to state some facts of my Revolutionary services, which I omitted in my letter to you on the subject of a Pension.



In June, 1776, armed and equipped at my own expense, I joined the army in the City of New York, and in July following, in parade order attended the *first* communication of the Declaration of Independence, which was read to the Troops: when we *all* as with one voice, Declared that we would Support and Defend the same with our lives and fortunes.

In August following, I marched with the Army under the immediate Command of General Washington, to Long Island, was in the heat of the Battle, and in the retreat to New York, and continued steadily and actively in the Army of the United States in the Service of my Country from the month of June 1776 until within a few months of the preliminaries of peace in the year 1782, when I was suddenly attacked with the gravel, which occasionally afflicts me to this day.—(See Rush<sup>s</sup> letter.)

The first part of my revolutionary services was as a Volunteer in the year 1776. The second part, from the first of January 1777, to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1780, Four Years, was in the Quarter Master General<sup>s</sup> Department, on the continental establishment; and was in continued active service.—My stations where as follows viz: on the lines of the Enemy in the neighborhood of New York, at the white plains: at the Continental Village, until the enemy took and burnt it; and at the Garrison of West Point, and its dependences, (see Col. Clement Biddle<sup>s</sup>, certificate of my services) and the last part of my revolutionary services from the first of January 1781. to about June 1782 (seventeen months) was as an officer in the Line of the Army of the United States on the continental establishment, (see my Commission from Congress.) And I do solemnly declare, That all my revolutionary services, were steady and active, and performed with Honor and fidelity and without intermission. If sir, I am not trespassing too much upon your time and it will be convenient—permit me once more, respectfully to solicit your patronage with the Secretary of War to enable me to receive

my certificate, before you leave Washington—My declaration was made before Judge McKean on the eight day of April 1818—I am Sir—with due Respect—your obedient Servant

ISAAC FRANKS.

V.

(13)

COPY OF BILL PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT GEORGE  
WASHINGTON.

An account of Extraordinary Expences, occurred to Isaac Franks in order to Accomodate the President of the United States, with his house, furniture, Beds, etc. in Germantown in consequence of a note received from the President the sixth Nov. 1793 to that purport in a letter from Thos. Dungan of Germantown.

1793, Nov. 6. Paid for the hire of a light two-horse waggon and driver for six days, at 2 dollars per day, for conveying myself & Mrs. Franks to Germantown, from Bethlehem in order to put my house & furniture in a situation to accommodate the President .....	Doll.	12
Expences attending the Journey.....		18
For the hire of Beds, furniture, etc. to accommodate my family during the time the president occupied mine.....		12
Set out on the 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec. for Germantown from Bethlehem in order to ascertain from the President, how long he intended to keep my house, furniture, etc. that I might accommodate my family and govern myself, accordingly expences attending this journey & back to my family.....		10
Cash paid for Cleaning my house and putting it in the same condition the President rec'd it in.....		2..50



For the damage done to a large double Japand waiter made use of in the service of the president.....		6
To one flat Iron missing.....	£0..1..10½	
One large fork @ 2/6.....	..2 ..6	
4 Platters @ 1/.....	..4 ..	
To 3 Ducks @ 2/6.....	..7 ..6	
4 Fowls @ 1/9.....	..7 ..	
1 Bushel Potatoes.....	..4 ..	
One hundred of Hay.....	..6 ..	
	£1..12..10½	4..40
To 2 Months house rent @ 400 D <sup>rs</sup> pr Year		66..66
		<hr/> Dols. 131.. <sup>56</sup> / <sub>100</sub>

(14)

G. W. HUFNAGLE'S ACCOUNT OF COLONEL FRANKS' RESIDENCE IN GERMANTOWN.

This Dwelling and Residence of Colonel Isaac Franks, Situated in Germantown, pa (phil<sup>a</sup>) as follows—

This Dwelling No. 4782\* Main Street Germantown, phil<sup>a</sup> pa. was built by David Desler, in 1774 & 75—and at the time of the Battle of Germantown, it was taken possession of by Sir William Howe Commander in chief of the British Army, as His head Quarters, and here he received a visit from the future King William the 4<sup>th</sup> then a Midshipman in the British Navy—In 1782 this property was sold by David Deshler [*sic*] to Colonel Isaac Franks, Aid de Camp to General George Washington—During the Yellow fever of 1793, The Seat of Government was removed to Germantown pa, and General George Washington rented this Dwelling furnished from Colonel Isaac Franks and occupied it with His family.

In 1804 it was purchased by Elliston and John Perot as a

\*Present number : 5442.

summer residence—and on the death of Elliston Perot, in 1834, it fell to his share (John) and became part of his estate.

His son in law Samuel B. Morris, purchased it soon after, and resided there until his death in 1859, and leaving it by his will to his son Elliston Perot Morris—The present owner who resides in it—(August 1876) 8 month 1876.

The Residence of General George Washington in 1793.



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